

Discover other cultures



Make beautiful things

# Papercraft









# PAPERCRAFT

**Meryl Doney**

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# About this book

The book in which you are reading these words is made entirely from paper. We use paper materials all the time, but we often take them for granted. Yet paper has a very long and varied history. In this book, we trace the story of papermaking from earliest times.

We begin with the art of handmade paper, using ordinary plants and simple equipment. This is followed by some examples of the many ways of decorating paper, ranging from marbling and painting to papercutting.

As a material, paper has many different uses. All over the world, people use paper to make many everyday items, such as books, clothes, ornaments, and even furniture.

In this book, the ideas for things that you can make with paper are drawn from many countries and cultures.

Most of the steps for making and decorating paper items are easy to follow, but where you see this sign ask for help from an adult.



## A chain of peace birds

The last item in this book (page 28) introduces the Japanese art of origami, or folded paper models. You could get together with a group of friends at your school or club to find out more about this fascinating art. If you learn how to fold the crane, your group could make a garland of birds as a symbol of peace and happiness.

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# The art of papercraft

Paper was probably invented in A.D.105 by Tsai Lun, an official at the court of the Chinese emperor. Before that date, important information was written on strips of bamboo or on silk. The new paper was made from the fibers of tree bark, hemp, or rags. It was cheap to make and light to transport; it became instantly popular.



Almost five hundred years after its discovery, paper was brought to Japan, via Korea, as the Buddhist religion spread across Asia. At first, paper was seen as a holy material and was used for written prayers or to make sacred banners. However, people soon realized that they could make many household items from paper, such as fans, umbrellas, bags, and lanterns. It could even be made into clothing, window coverings, and screens.

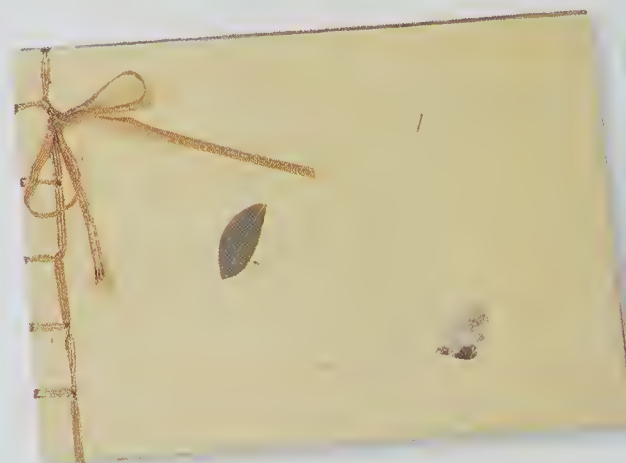


During the eighth century A.D., craftsmen set up papermaking centers in the cities of Baghdad, Damascus, and Cairo, and from these places paper was imported into Europe. The first papermaking centers were established in Spain. In 1690, the first paper mill was set up in the British colonies of North America.

Papermaking quickly spread across the world. Also, the methods of making paper changed as

new technologies were discovered. When Johannes Gutenberg invented printing in Germany in the 1400s, a new age of book publishing began. During the Industrial Revolution in Europe, the production of paper was carried out by machines. Paper could now be produced in continuous strips that were wound onto huge rolls. This made possible the mass printing of newspapers and magazines.

The first factory for machine-made paper was opened in Shanghai, China, in 1892. The story of papermaking had come full circle to where it had begun, almost 2,000 years earlier.

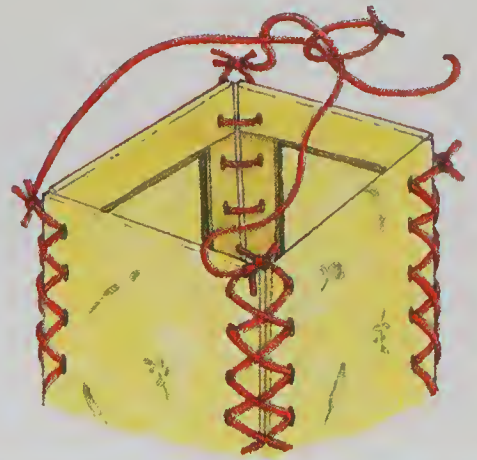




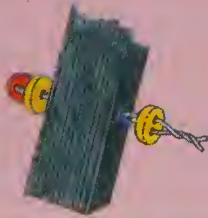
# Your own papermaking kit

In this book, you will find several simple ways to make your own paper. These are followed by ideas for decorating your handmade paper and for creating items with it.

Most of the equipment that you will need is very simple and can be found around the home. You may want to put together a papermaking kit. Here are some of the things you will need:



scissors • craft knife • metal ruler • brushes • paints • varnish • white glue (dries clear) • tube of strong glue • sticky tape

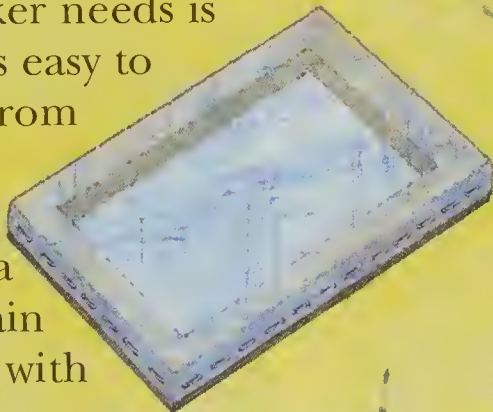


• masking tape • lightweight oaktag • paper • newspaper • pen • pencil • felt-tip pens • needle and thread • iron



## Papermaking mold

The first thing that a papermaker needs is a mold. It is easy to make one from an old picture frame and a piece of plain net curtain with a fine mesh.

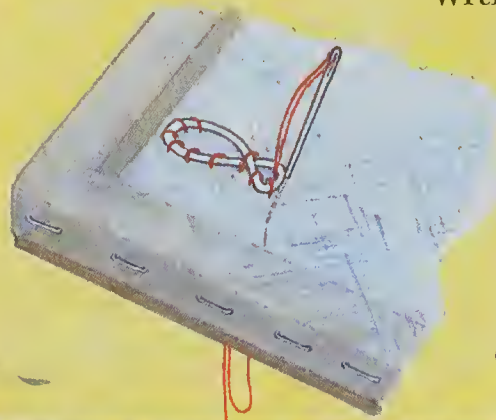


Stretch the net evenly over the frame. Secure it around the edges with drawing pins or a staple gun. Neaten the corners, and make sure that the net is tight and smooth.

## A secret watermark

A watermark is a hidden design or picture that is put into a sheet of paper while it is being made. You cannot see the watermark by just looking at the paper. Hold it up to the light and the watermark appears!

To make your own distinctive mark, bend a piece of thin wire into a shape. Sew this shape onto the surface of your paper mold with fine cotton thread.



When you make your paper (see page 9), the watermark will be hidden in each sheet.



EGYPT, AUSTRALIA, AND  
MEXICO

# Papyrus and bark



Before paper was invented, people wrote important records on pieces of pottery, wet clay, animal skins, or waxed wooden tablets. In China, early books were made by sewing together strips of bamboo. The word “paper” comes from papyrus, a reed that was first used by the ancient Egyptians to make paper. Strips of the reed are laid across each other and rolled until they fuse together to form a thin but strong paper (bottom right). The picture of Pharaoh Tutankhamen (below right) is painted on papyrus.



The Aboriginal peoples of Australia paint on tree bark. The bark is first stripped and soaked in water, before being heated over a fire to make it pliable. This decorated bark-paper bag (left) is made by the Tiwi people of the Melville and Bathurst islands off the north Australian coast. It is called a *tunga* and is worn for funeral ceremonies.

In Mexico, bark paper (below left) is made by the Otomi people of San Pablito, in the southern state of Puebla. The hard outer layer of bark is separated from the inner fibers, which are used to make the paper. The decoration of birds and flowers is then painted by hand.

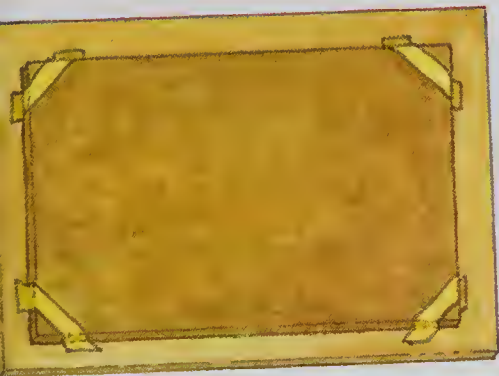




# Make a bark painting

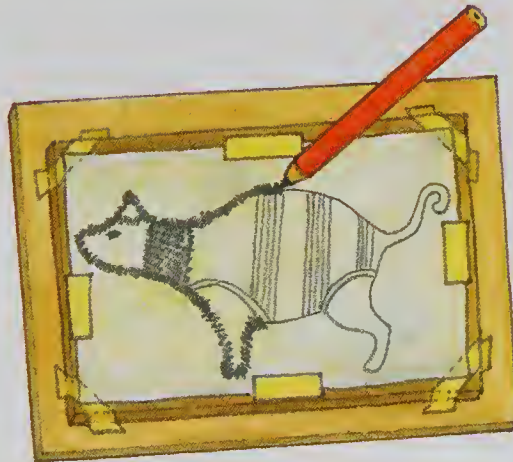
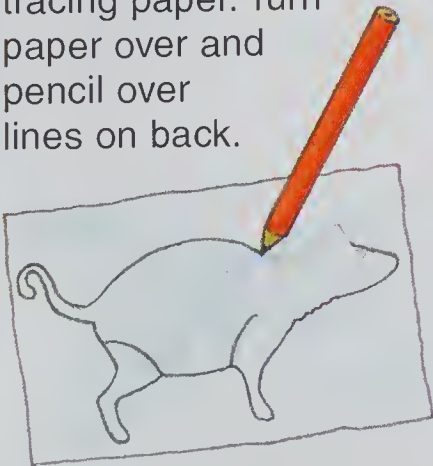
You can paint pictures directly onto pieces of soaked and flattened bark or on paper made from bark fibers. The flat sheets of cork that are used for floors and bulletin boards are made from the bark of the cork-oak tree. This bark makes an ideal surface for painting.

**You will need:** sheet of cork or cork tile (unvarnished) • masking tape • wooden board • tracing paper • pencil • felt-tip pen • acrylic paint in white, ocher (dirty yellow), burnt sienna (rust brown), and burnt umber (dark brown) • paintbrush • stick



**1** Tape corners of cork sheet or tile onto a board to prevent it moving or rolling up.

**2** Find an idea from a book on art, or copy a picture of an animal like the opossum from Tasmania shown here. Draw your design on tracing paper. Turn paper over and pencil over lines on back.



**3** Tape tracing paper to cork and trace over lines. Go over traced outline with felt-tip pen.



Add background pattern.

**4** Paint flat areas with a brush. Use your fingers or the end of a stick to form the dot pattern. Let dry.





INDIA, JAPAN,  
CHINA, AND BANGLADESH

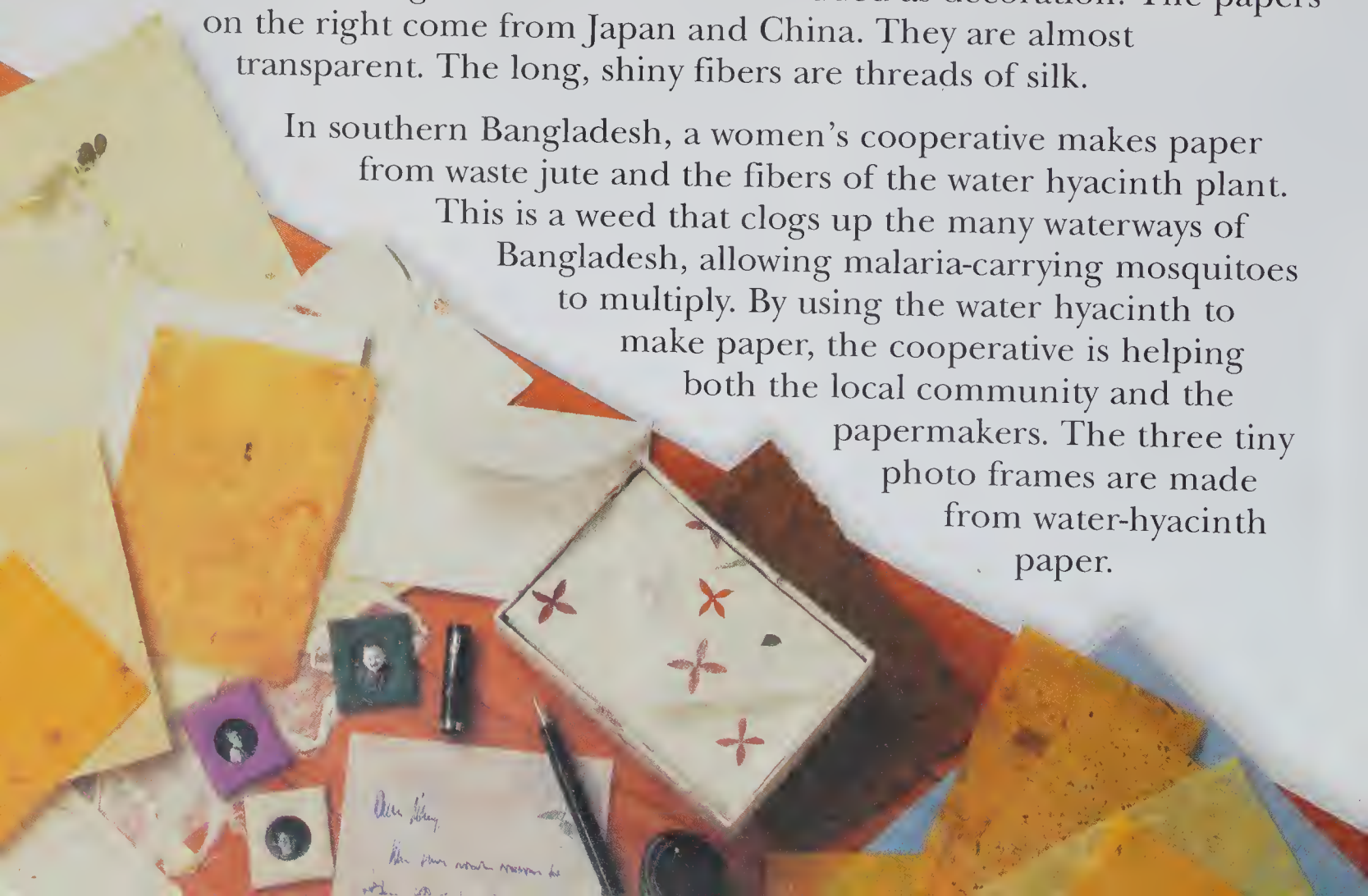
# Handmade paper



Most paper is made from plant fibers that are matted together to form a thin sheet, and then dried flat. The first papers were made in China from tree bark, hemp plants, or cotton rags. Most of the paper we use today comes from treated wood pulp. The plants are pounded so that their fibers break into shorter lengths. The soft flesh of the plant is then washed away and the fibers are added to water to form a “soup.” This is strained through a mesh made of wire, fabric, or bamboo strips as seen in the picture above.

The orange paper (below, far left) is made from rough coconut fibers. The papers and box of envelopes (below, left and center) are made in India. Petals, leaves, seeds, and even gold threads have been added as decoration. The papers on the right come from Japan and China. They are almost transparent. The long, shiny fibers are threads of silk.

In southern Bangladesh, a women’s cooperative makes paper from waste jute and the fibers of the water hyacinth plant. This is a weed that clogs up the many waterways of Bangladesh, allowing malaria-carrying mosquitoes to multiply. By using the water hyacinth to make paper, the cooperative is helping both the local community and the papermakers. The three tiny photo frames are made from water-hyacinth paper.





# Make your own paper

The blue paper is made from newspaper with vegetable dye used for cake decorating to color it. White envelopes were used for the second paper. Pressed leaves were added for decoration.

You could add a watermark to your handmade paper. This method of marking paper was invented in Italy in the thirteenth century. The marks may have been a way of identifying the work of each papermaker.



**1** Tear used paper into small squares. Soak overnight in a bucket of water.

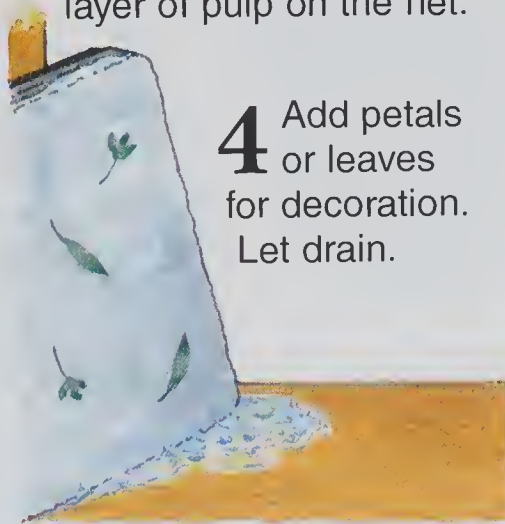
**2** Liquidize soaked paper in small amounts until it is a pulpy soup. Add plenty of water and operate the blender in short bursts.



**You will need:** used paper • bucket • water • food blender • pitcher • plastic bowl • wooden spoon • mold (see page 5) • rubber gloves • pressed leaves or petals • tray • bowl • newspaper • dishtowels or dishcloths • heavy weight • iron

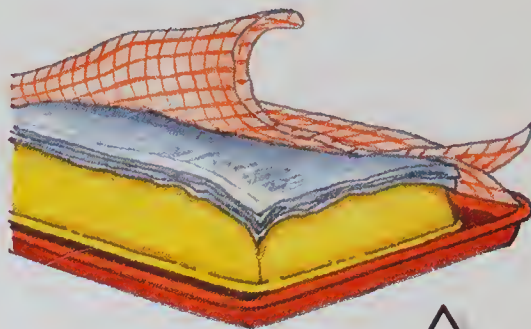


**3** Pour one jugful of pulp and four jugfuls of water into plastic bowl and stir. Dip mold, net side up, into bowl. Pull gently upward, catching a thick layer of pulp on the net.

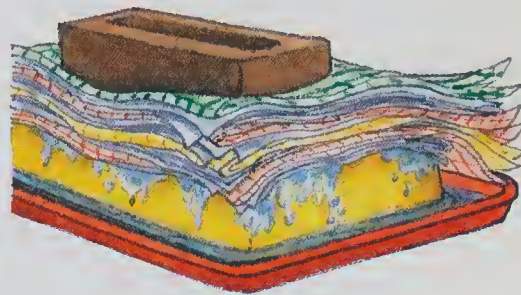


**4** Add petals or leaves for decoration. Let drain.

**5** Place bowl upside down on tray and lay newspaper over it. Cover with cloth. Turn the mold and gently transfer pulp onto cloth.



**6** Continue until you have a pile of cloths and paper. Place a heavy weight on top. Let pile dry, or iron each sheet dry between cloths. Peel away cloths to remove paper.





FRANCE, INDIA,  
HAITI, AND MEXICO

# Papier-mâché

As the wonderful invention of paper spread around the world, people from many countries found other ways of using it. They discovered that wet paper pulp or strips could be molded into any shape. When the finished product is painted and varnished, it becomes almost as stiff and hardwearing as wood.

This technique became known by its French name, *papier-mâché*, which literally means “mashed paper.” The green and gold tray on the right was made in France. It represents the European tradition of papier-mâché when furniture and articles of great beauty and delicacy were made.

The large bowl (bottom right) is an example of traditional Indian papier-mâché work. In particular, the people of India’s Kashmir region have been producing fine papier-mâché articles since the fifteenth century. Today, beautifully painted items like the jewelry box and the cat (below) are still produced in the region.

Other areas of the world also produce colorful papier-mâché. The bus (top right), called a *tap tap*, comes from Haiti. The melon-shaped tray (top right) comes from Mexico.





# Make a papier-mâché tray

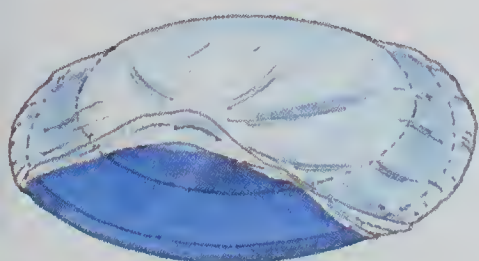
There are two main methods of making papier-mâché. Most of the articles shown opposite were made by pasting strips or squares of paper onto a base or mold. However, you could use papier-mâché pulp for the large tray. It is easy to make and can be molded rather like clay.

**You will need:** newspaper • bucket • water • food blender • 3 tablespoons starch paste • large wooden spoon • large plate or tray (as mold) • plastic food wrap • white glue • brushes • pencil • white paper • acrylic paints • varnish



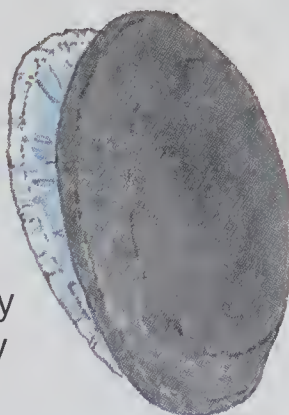
**1** Prepare a thick pulp from newspaper using method shown in steps 1 and 2 on page 9. Add paste to pulp and mix to form a soft “dough.”

**2** Turn mold upside down and cover with plastic food wrap. (This stops papier-mâché sticking to it.)



**3** Take a handful of pulp. Squeeze out water. Pat down onto food wrap. Repeat to build up a layer 0.8 inch (2–3 cm) thick. Smooth all over the mold.

**4** Let dry completely for several days in a warm, dry place. Gently separate dry tray from mold.



**5** Paint tray all over with white glue. Paint second coat of colored paint. Plan out your design before drawing it onto the tray. Paint on design, then varnish.





# BRITAIN, BANGLADESH, AND INDIA

## Marbling

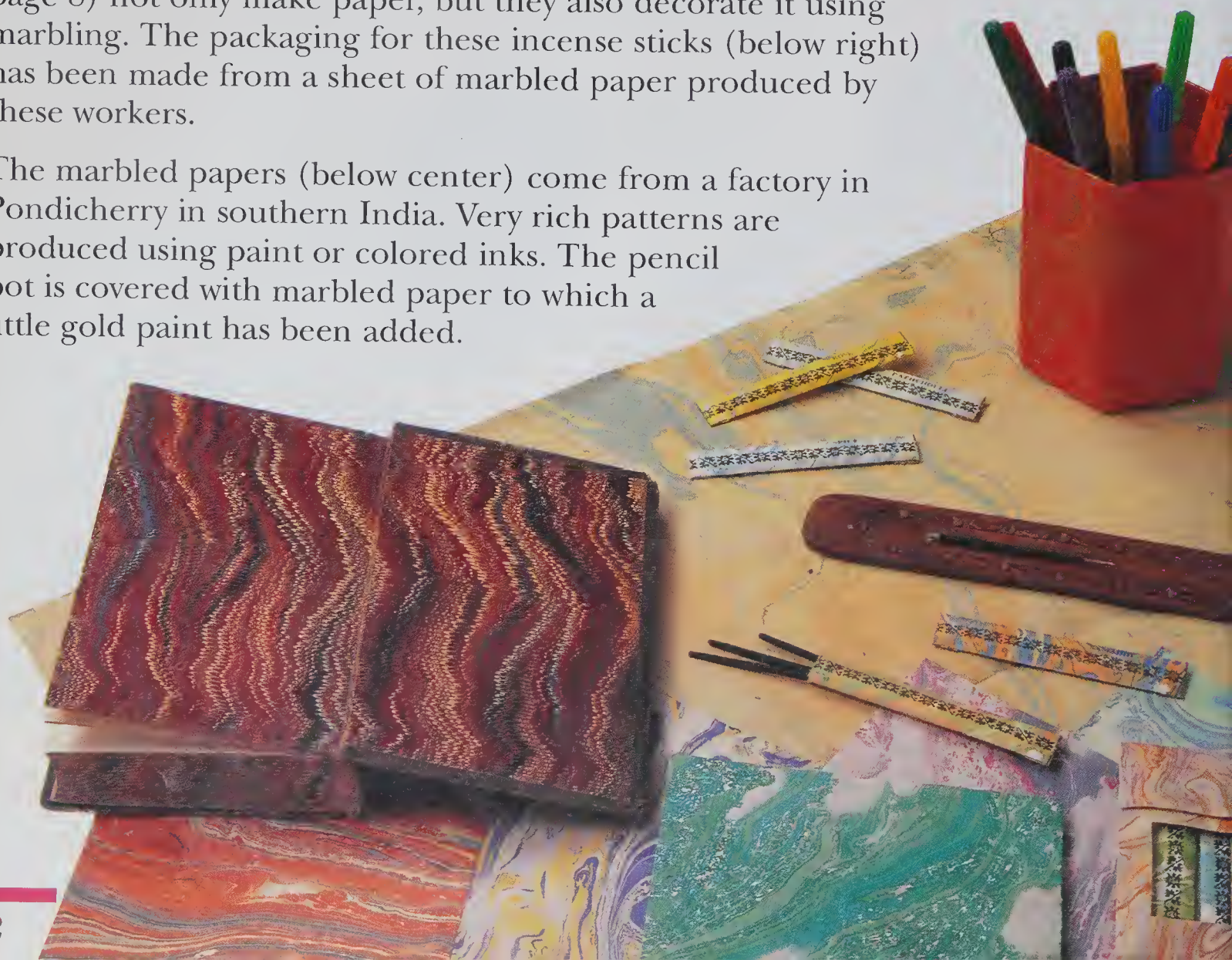


Marbling is a very simple but effective method of decorating paper. It involves the basic idea of adding oil-based paint to water. Oil floats on water, and so oil-based paint stays on the water's surface too.

This technique is called marbling because the pattern formed on the paper looks like the veins in polished marble. Marbling has traditionally been used to decorate the endpapers of hand-bound books. The example below left was made in Britain over one hundred years ago. It shows the typical dark feathered patterns that are produced when a comb is dragged across the paint on the water's surface.

In Bangladesh, the women who work at the Concern project (see page 8) not only make paper, but they also decorate it using marbling. The packaging for these incense sticks (below right) has been made from a sheet of marbled paper produced by these workers.

The marbled papers (below center) come from a factory in Pondicherry in southern India. Very rich patterns are produced using paint or colored inks. The pencil pot is covered with marbled paper to which a little gold paint has been added.





# Simple hand marbling

**You will need:** large plastic tray (to fit a sheet of paper) • water • oil paints (at least two colors) • two mixing pots • turpentine • brushes • paper • newspaper

This method uses ordinary oil paint and turpentine. However, you can buy special marbling inks from craft stores.

**1** Fill tray with water.

**2** Squeeze about 1 inch (20 mm) of oil paint into a small mixing pot. Add about 1 tablespoon (10 ml) of turpentine. Mix well. Repeat with different color in second pot.



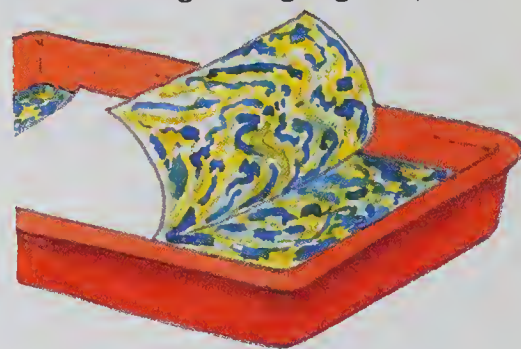
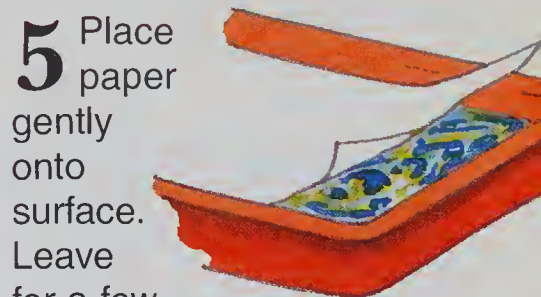
**3** To test paint, load brush and flick paint onto the water's surface. If paint shrinks and sinks, add more turpentine. If it spreads too thinly, add more paint.

**4** Clean tray and refill with water. Flick two different colors onto the surface. Drag paint into swirls with end of brush.



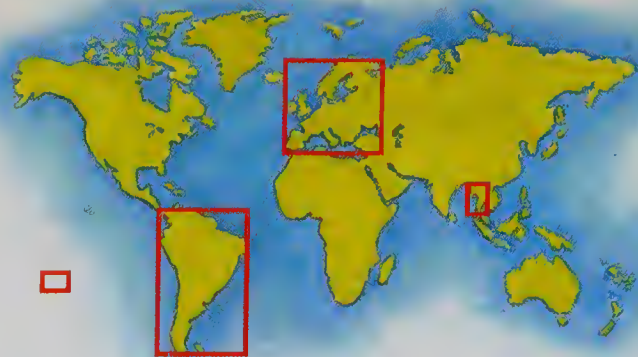
**5** Place paper gently onto surface. Leave for a few

seconds and peel off. Lay flat to dry. Make a second print for a paler version. (Remove paint from water with a sheet of newspaper before beginning again.)





# FRENCH POLYNESIA, EUROPE, THAILAND, AND SOUTH AMERICA



## Paper blooms

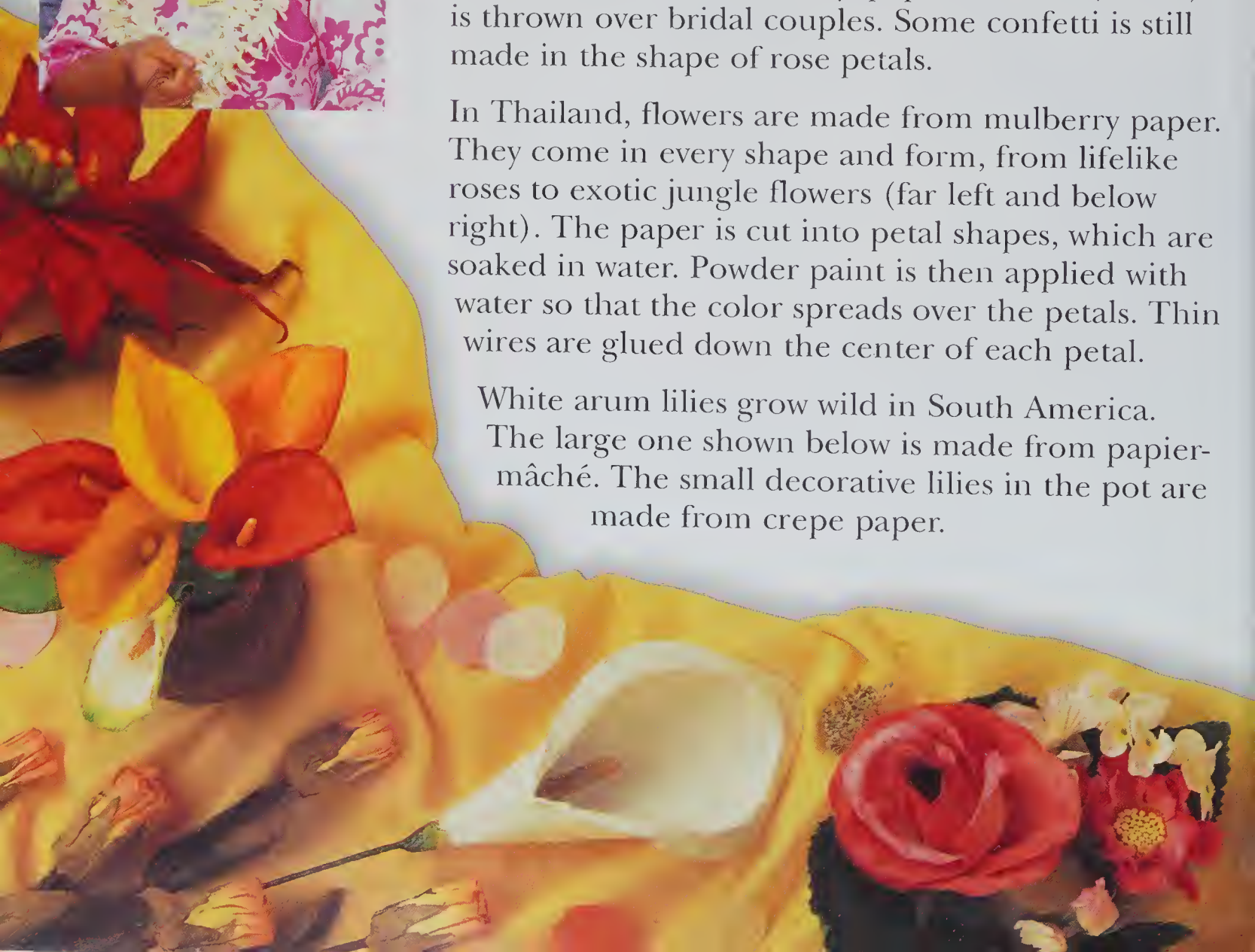


In most cultures across the world, flowers are used to greet people and to make places beautiful. Garlands of flower heads are a traditional form of welcome in many of the islands of French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean (see left).

When real flowers are expensive or difficult to find, paper ones are a useful alternative. In Europe, rose petals were tossed on the floor for kings or victors of battles to walk on. Today, paper confetti (below) is thrown over bridal couples. Some confetti is still made in the shape of rose petals.

In Thailand, flowers are made from mulberry paper. They come in every shape and form, from lifelike roses to exotic jungle flowers (far left and below right). The paper is cut into petal shapes, which are soaked in water. Powder paint is then applied with water so that the color spreads over the petals. Thin wires are glued down the center of each petal.

White arum lilies grow wild in South America. The large one shown below is made from papier-mâché. The small decorative lilies in the pot are made from crepe paper.



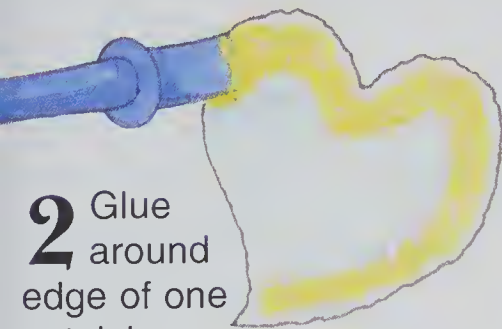


# Make a brilliant bouquet

**You will need:** lightweight oaktag • pencil • scissors • white crepe paper • white glue • colored inks • water • brush • thin wire • thread



**1** Draw a petal shape onto oaktag and cut out. Lay it on crepe paper and draw around edge three times for each flower. Cut out petals.



**2** Glue around edge of one petal. Lay second petal over this and glue again. Lay third petal on top. Let dry. Trim around the edges to neaten.

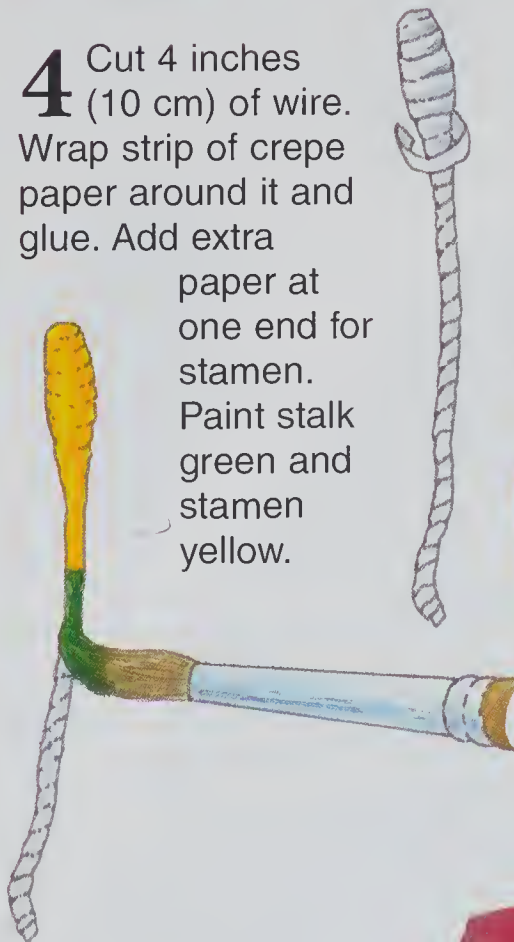


**3** Paint colored ink around the edge of flower. Blend color into crepe paper with clean water.



**4** Cut 4 inches (10 cm) of wire. Wrap strip of crepe paper around it and glue. Add extra

paper at one end for stamen. Paint stalk green and stamen yellow.



**5** Wrap petal around base of stamen. Secure with glue and thread. Bend edges of petal outward. Repeat process to make more flowers for a bouquet.





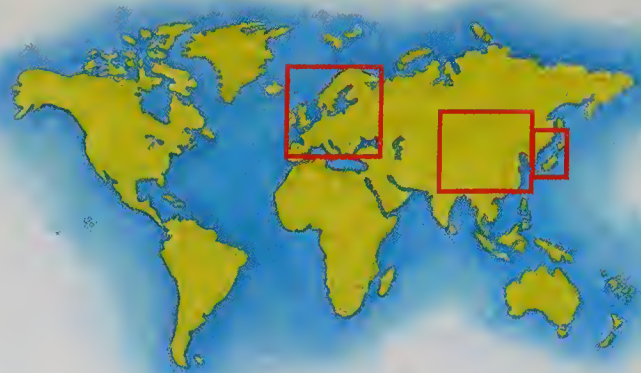
# Paper fans

A fan is a very simple and effective idea. You can carry it around with you folded, yet it opens up into a large area of paper that moves cool air over your face very efficiently. The paper fan may have been invented in China or Japan, where it was used by both men and women. At the Japanese Imperial court, fans became a symbol of power.

A fan is also the most important item carried by an actor in Japanese traditional *No* drama. Fans from the Far East have traditionally been made from bamboo strips with paper stretched over them. The two larger fans on the left come from China. They are decorated with painted birds and flowers.

The fan idea can also be developed into more decorative forms, like the butterfly above.

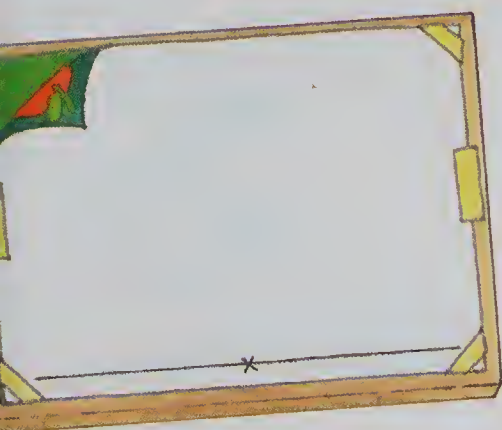
In Europe, fans became an essential part of high fashion. Ladies owned one to match each dress. They used them to hide their face or to express their feelings. In time, a complete world of social etiquette grew up around the use of fans. They were made from luxurious materials like ivory, silk, and ostrich feathers as well as from paper. They were often decorated with paintings as this Victorian fan (bottom left) shows.





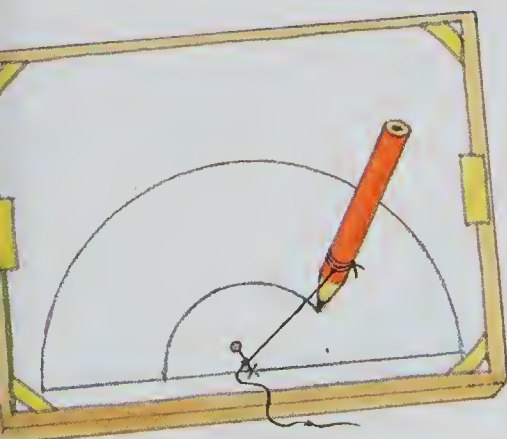
# Make a fantastic fan

**You will need:** large sheet of wrapping paper • large sheet of plain paper • masking tape • pencil • ruler • large wooden board • thread • sewing pin • scissors • stiff black oaktag • small hole punch • thin wire, 6 inches (15 cm) long • large bead • 2, two-holed buttons • strong glue • ribbon



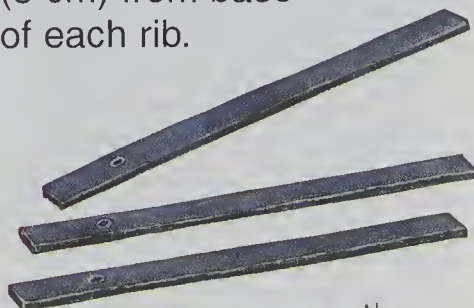
**1** Tape both sheets of paper to the board. Draw line 1.5 inches (4 cm) from one long edge. Mark a point halfway along it.

**2** Tie thread to pencil to make compass. Measure 10 inches (25 cm) along thread and tie a knot. Push pin through knot and into point marked on paper. Use as compass to draw semicircle.

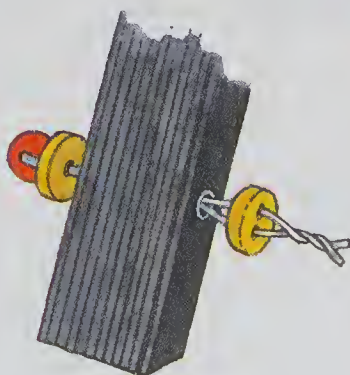


Repeat with length of thread measuring 3 inches (7 cm). Cut out arch shape of paper from both sheets.

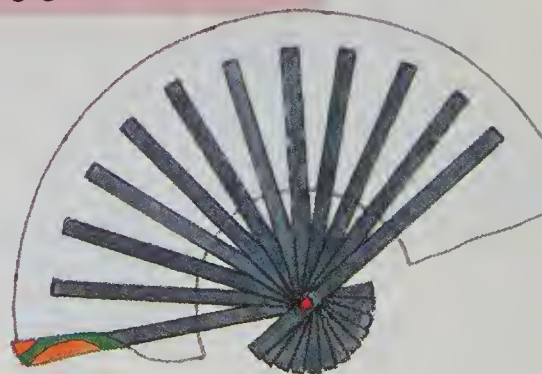
**3** Cut 12 strips of oaktag, 12 x 0.5 inches (30 x 1 cm). Punch a hole 2 inches (5 cm) from base of each rib.



**4** Thread bead onto wire. Bend wire in half and thread ends through one button.

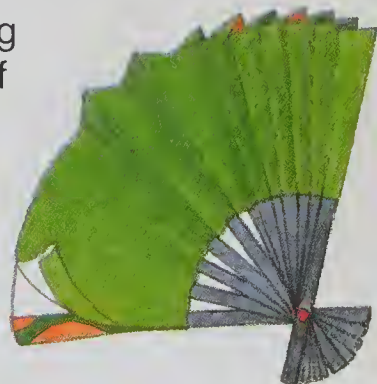


Push wire through ribs. Add second button. Twist wire loosely and trim ends.



**5** Place wrapping paper face down. Lay fanned-out ribs on top. Glue each end rib 0.8 inches (2 cm) from edge of paper. Fold end of paper over rib and glue. Glue ribs at equal intervals.

**6** Glue plain paper over back. Fold fan along edges of ribs in a zigzag. Tie ribbon around wire.





# Lights and lanterns



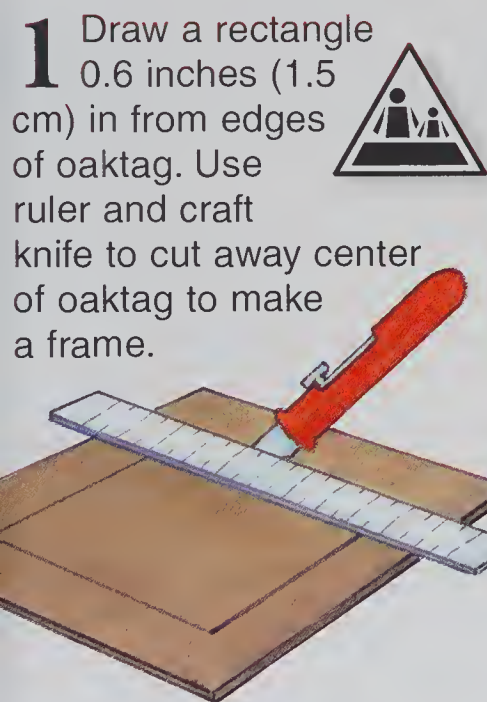
Although paper is thin, it is also strong and light in weight. For this reason it is an ideal material for making lampshades. Paper lanterns, which were probably invented in Japan, are now popular all over the world. The lampshade from Japan (above left) is made from paper that contains strands of silk.

The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. The colorful lantern (above center) was bought especially for the festival at a market stall in Taiwan. The simple white lantern from Tibet (above right) is decorated with fish — a symbol of freedom from the problems of the world.

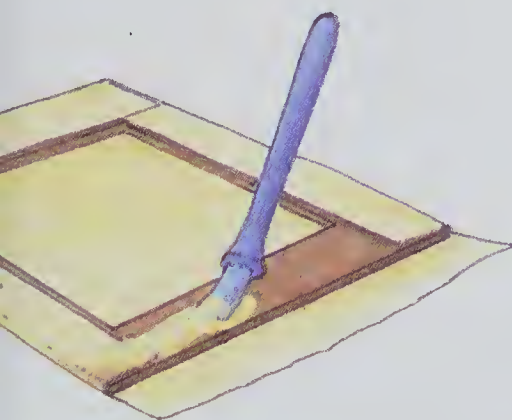


# Make a paper lantern

When this lantern is lit, it shows off the beauty of the handmade paper. You could copy the Tibetan lantern and paint the paper with a fish pattern or use another design.



**2** Place frame in center of handmade paper and glue. Fold paper edges over frame and glue. Repeat process with three other frames.

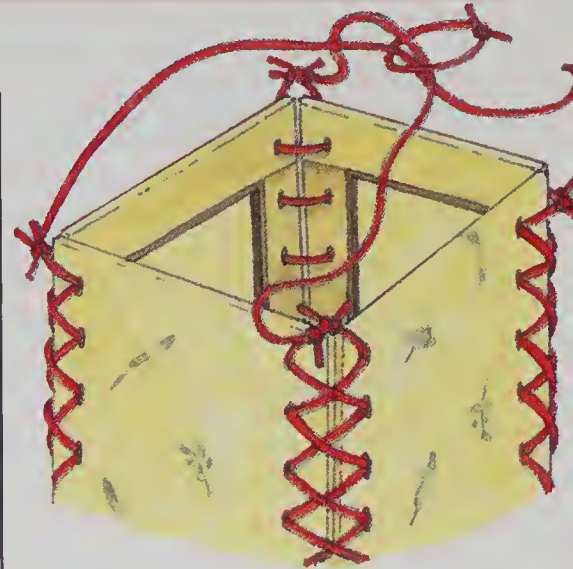
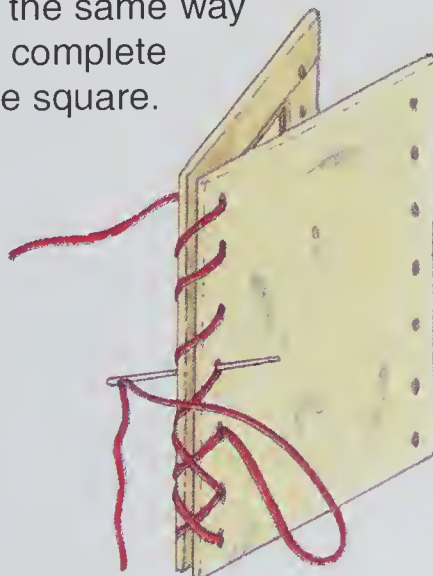


**You will need:** four pieces of oaktag, 5.5 x 7 inches (14 x 18 cm) • pencil • metal ruler • craft knife • four pieces of handmade paper, 6 x 8 inches (16 x 20 cm) • strong glue • plastic modeling material • awl • thin ribbon • large needle • scissors

**3** Mark dots at intervals down long sides of each frame as shown. Hold over plastic modeling material. Pierce a hole at each dot with an awl.



**4** Place two frames with right sides facing out. Using thin ribbon, sew loosely up one side and down again. Knot ends. Add third and fourth frames in the same way to complete the square.



**5** Tie two long ribbons to the ribbons at opposite corners. To hang lantern, attach small loop of ribbon around long ribbons.





# INDIA, BRITAIN, AND SRI LANKA

## Bags and cards



The art of gift wrapping is not a new one. Before plastic bags were introduced, most people carried their shopping home in paper bags. In India, bags are made out of spare paper. When you go to the market to buy your eggs, they are given to you in a handmade newspaper bag like the one shown bottom right.

In many countries, the simple paper bag has developed into the more sophisticated shopping bag. Shopping bags can be made from handmade paper like this one (below), or brightly printed with a design or advertisement. These two bags (right and far right) were made in Britain to advertise a museum and a shop.

Paper bags are so much better for the environment than plastic bags, especially if they are made from recycled paper.

Gift tags and cards are one way in which paper can be used to send a greeting. The card on the right comes from Sri Lanka. It is made from handmade paper and decorated with pressed wildflowers.





# Make your own gift bag

The most useful paper bag to make is a gift bag. A present that is difficult to wrap can easily be popped into a gift bag. You can make any size of bag once you have mastered the technique. Try making plain bags, which you can decorate yourself. Use them to advertise your school or club. You could write a special message on the bag for the person who will receive the gift.

**1** Fold over 1.6 inches (4 cm) of one long edge of paper.



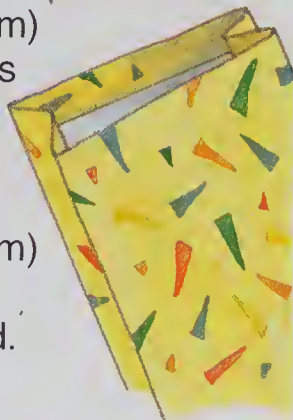
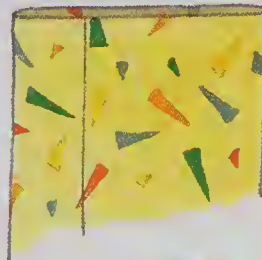
**2** Overlap shorter sides by 0.4 inch (1 cm). Glue to form a tube of paper.

**3** Fold down paper along joined edges and press tube flat.



**You will need:** gift wrapping paper, 28 x 20 inches (70 x 50 cm) • strong glue • two strips of oaktag, 1.6 x 10 inches (4 x 26 cm) • hole punch • scissors • colored cord

**4** Mark 3 inches (8 cm) from folded edge. Open out tube and fold down again, at 3-inch (8-cm) mark. Press tube flat again. Fold the two, 3-inch (8-cm) sections in half, inward.



**5** Fold bottom of tube up 3 inches (8 cm). Open out again.



Fold short sides in and crease.

Fold top flap down, bottom flap up and glue.



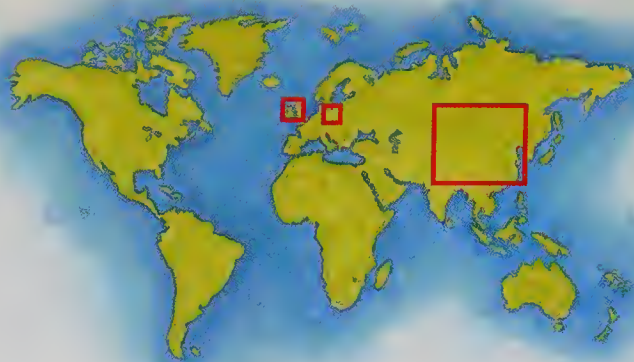
**6** Slip strips of oaktag under top cuff on both sides. Pierce four holes through cuff and oaktag. Thread cord handles through holes and knot on inside.





# CHINA, POLAND, AND BRITAIN

# Papercutting



It is not difficult to cut paper into different shapes and designs, yet in many countries of the world papercutting has developed into a detailed form of art. The colorful cutouts at the foot of the page represent traditional Chinese characters. The shapes are cut from fine tissue paper which is then painted. The single-color papercuts of biblical figures and stories (below left) are made by Fan Pu of the Amity Christian Art Centre in Nanjing, China.

In Europe, traditional patterns of papercutting followed the designs painted on peasant furniture. The round papercut of two cockerels (left) comes from Poland. This papercut is not painted, but built up with layers of different colored paper.

During the sixteenth century, a craze of silhouette papercutting took Europe by storm. A candle was placed beside the subject so that it threw a shadow onto a piece of paper on the wall. The artist then traced the profile, filling it in with ink. In France, this was seen as a poor substitute for a painted portrait. As a result, the method was named after a much hated aristocrat, Etienne de Silhouette.

By the nineteenth century, a machine had been invented that shrank the shadow so that miniature portraits could be made. This portrait (top left) was hand cut in Britain around 1950, when silhouettes were still popular.



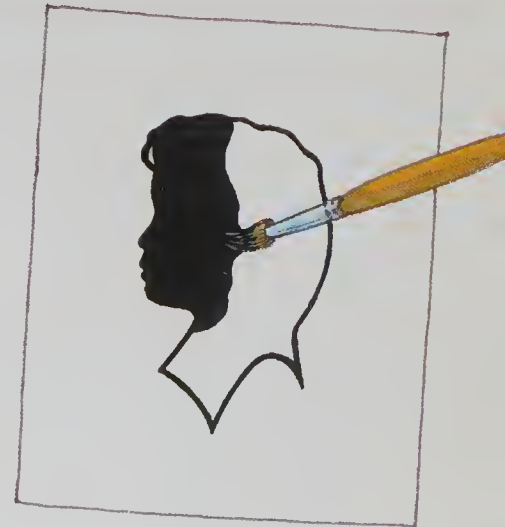


# Make a portrait silhouette

Here is a modern way of making a silhouette likeness. However, you may also like to try the original method, using a candle to cast the shadow of your sitter onto the wall. You can make yourself look like a historic person by adding a period hat or a crown!

**You will need:** large photograph of someone in profile • tracing paper • masking tape • pencil • white paper • black ink • pen • brush • oval-shaped matting board • photo frame

**3** Tape tracing paper to white paper and transfer traced profile (see page 7). Take care to be accurate so that you do not spoil the likeness.

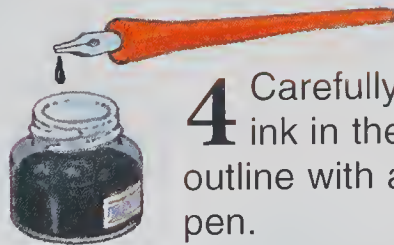
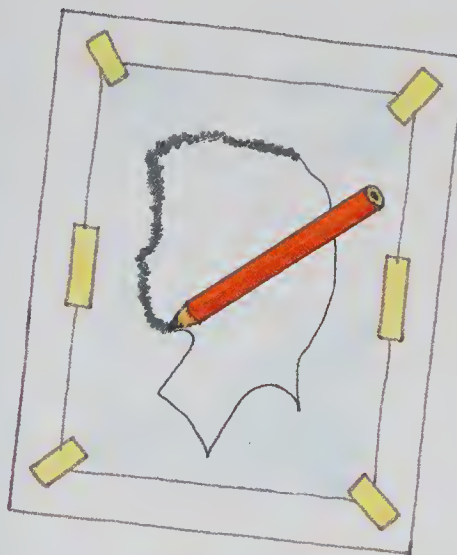
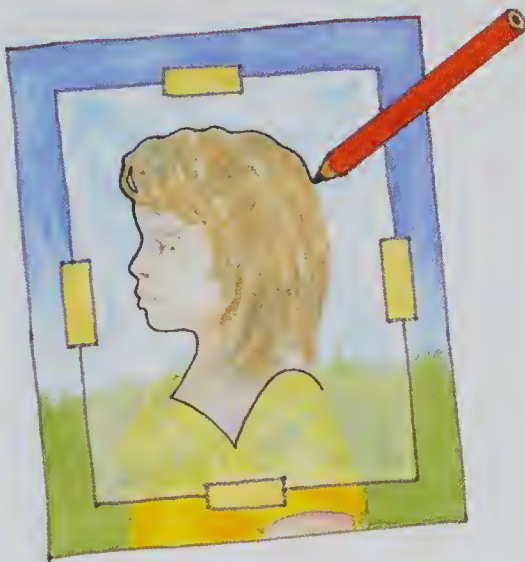


**5** Paint the whole shape in black ink.

**6** Tape your picture onto the matting board and place inside frame to make it look like a professional portrait.

**1** Tape tracing paper over photograph. Trace lightly around the profile with a pencil.

**2** Turn tracing paper over and pencil over traced outline on back.



**4** Carefully ink in the outline with a pen.





# Pinwheels



When you make a sand castle on the beach, it is only complete when crowned with a pinwheel. It is a paper whirler that makes use of the wind to whirl itself around, rather like a windmill. The pinwheels below were bought at an English seaside resort. They are made from light plastic instead of paper.

Nobody quite knows where the original pinwheels came from. They may have developed from pieces of paper hung up to scare birds away from crops or from devices that sailors used to work out the speed of the wind. Small metal versions of pinwheels are still used to check the wind speed on the ground at airports.

In India, all kinds of children's toys are made from paper. Paper pinwheels are very popular.

These women (right) are making masks and decorations.

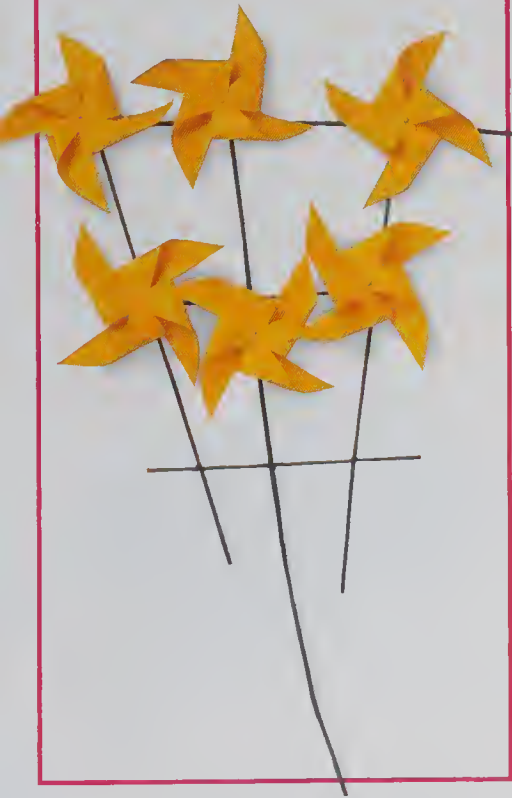
They have also made a pinwheel.





# Make a pinwheel toy

Here is a method of making a single pinwheel. You could make several of them and attach them to a frame like the one shown here.



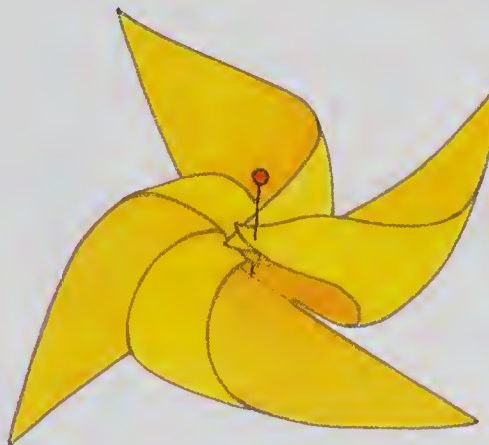
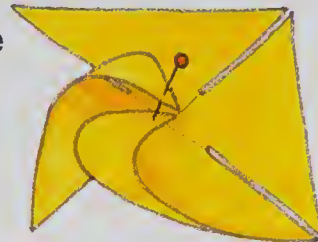
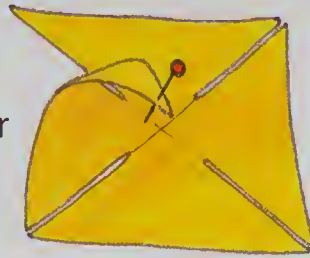
**1** Mark diagonal lines on the square of paper.



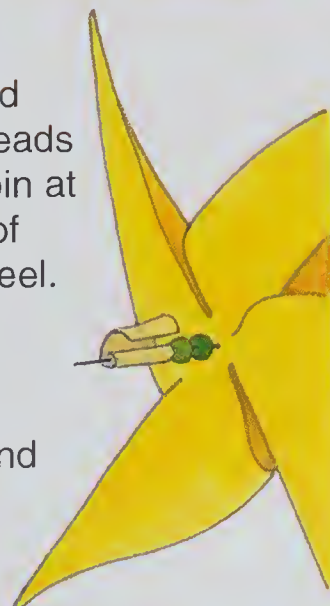
**You will need:** square of stiff colored paper • pencil • ruler • scissors • long, round-headed mapping pin • two beads • sticky tape • wooden garden stick

**2** Lift one half-corner of the cut paper at a time.

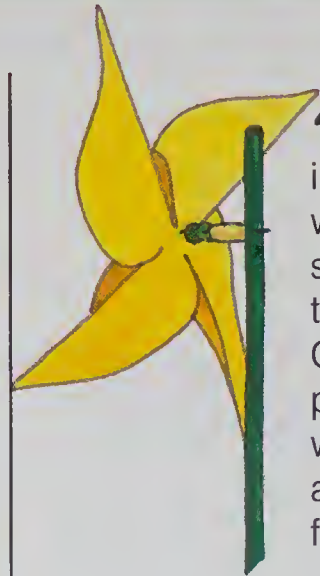
Push the pin through each corner from the outside to the inside. Push the pin through the middle of the pinwheel.



**3** Thread two beads onto the pin at the back of the pinwheel. Wrap a "collar" of sticky tape around the pin.



**4** Push the pin into the wooden stick near the top. Check that pinwheel whirls around freely.





CHINA, INDONESIA,  
INDIA, AND NEPAL

# Bookbinding



When people wanted to keep an important set of pages together to make a manuscript, they had to invent a way of preserving it. The earliest writing was done on clay or wooden boards, and later on long rolls of papyrus or leather, called scrolls.

Around the second century A.D., the scroll began to be replaced by a pile of folded paper sheets that were sewn together at one edge. This technique may have been invented by early Christians, so that they could carry their precious manuscripts around safely.

Today, good-quality printed books are still sewn together at the spine, and handmade papers are bound into books in the same way. Many small papermaking cooperatives make beautiful giftbooks for sale around the world. The handsewn giftbook (below center) comes from Indonesia and is threaded through with cord made from twisted paper. The book with the fish motif (below left) comes from India, and the simpler workman's notebook (right) from China.

The notebook with the bamboo strip to close it (bottom right) was made in Nepal. The paper comes from the bark of the lokta tree, which is very quick to regrow. This helps to preserve the forests of Nepal.





# Make a simple sewn book

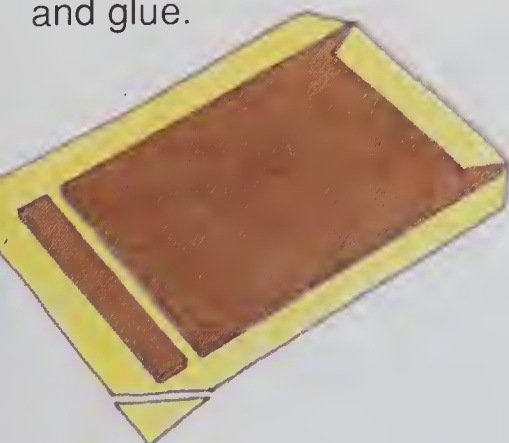
You could use lightweight construction paper for the inside sheets of your book, instead of handmade paper.

**You will need:** 2 pieces of oaktag, 8.25 x 5.9 inches (21 x 14.8 cm) • metal ruler • 2 sheets of handmade paper, 9 x 6.5 inches (23 x 16.8 cm) • scissors • strong glue • 20 sheets of construction paper, 7.5 x 5 inches (19 x 12.8 cm) • string • newspaper • awl • hammer • thin ribbon • large needle

**1** To make front cover, use craft knife and ruler to cut a 0.08-inch (2-mm) strip and a 0.8-inch (2-cm) strip off the edge of one piece of oaktag. Throw away the thin strip.



**2** Glue the oaktag and 0.8-inch (2-cm) strip (for the hinge) to the center of one sheet of handmade paper. Cut off overlapping corners. Fold paper in and glue.

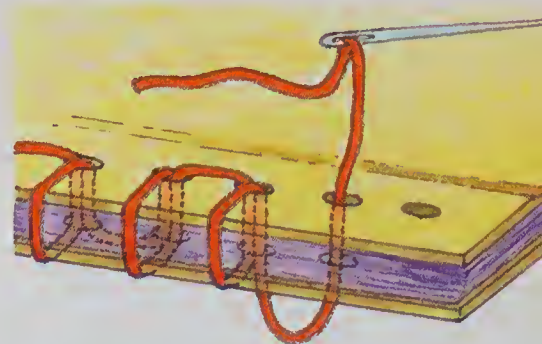
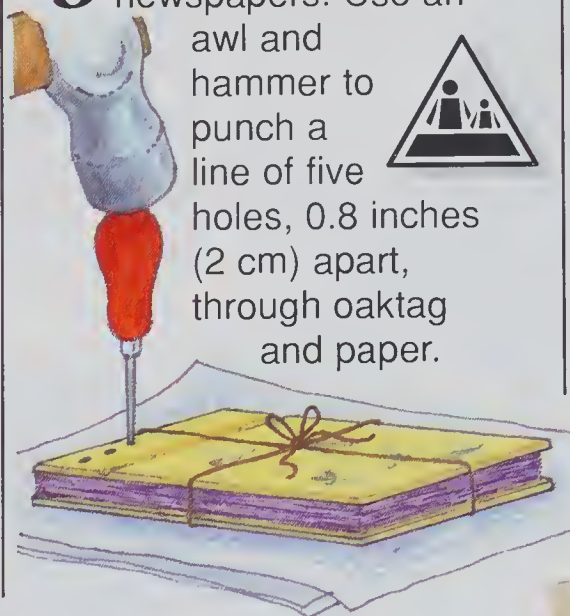


**3** Glue a sheet of construction paper inside front cover to neaten. Repeat steps 1–3 for back cover, but without hinge.

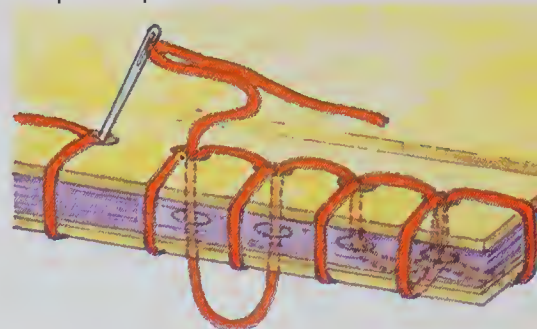


**4** Stack the book with the sheets on the hinge side. Tie together with string.

**5** Lay book on a pile of newspapers. Use an awl and hammer to punch a line of five holes, 0.8 inches (2 cm) apart, through oaktag and paper.



**6** Thread ribbon and sew down through first hole. Bind around spine edge and down through same hole again. Sew up through next hole and repeat process to end.



Bring last stitch up around side of book. Sew down and up along holes, filling in gaps. Tie ribbon end into bow. Remove string.





JAPAN

# Origami



In Japan, the art of folding paper is called origami. Many of the traditional shapes are very complicated to make. It can take many years for someone to become a good origamist. Below, on the right, are some traditional origami figures: the boat, the frog, the crab, and the duck.

The crane (below left) is a fairly simple design. Most Japanese children learn to make it at home or in school.

The crane is a symbol of long life and loyalty. It also represents the soul of a person. It has come to be associated with peace and with the commemoration of the terrible end to World War II, when atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the anniversary of this event in August each year, children make strings of small paper cranes (bottom left). They hang them in their homes in memory of those who died, and in the hope that such a tragedy will never happen again.





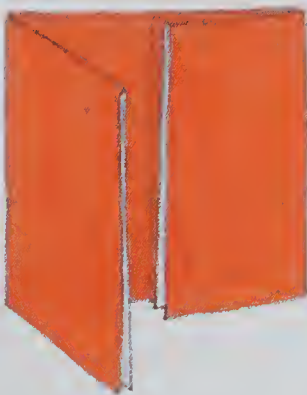
# Make an origami hat

You will need to follow these steps carefully. Crease along each fold with your fingernail so that the folds are very exact. If you would like to make more origami figures, look for a book on the subject in your school or local library (see page 30).

**1** Fold square in half to form a rectangle. Fold rectangle in half and crease.



**2** Open out rectangle and fold sides in toward the middle.



**You will need:** a square of origami paper or gift wrap (to make a hat to wear, use a square about 16 x 16 inches (40 x 40 cm))

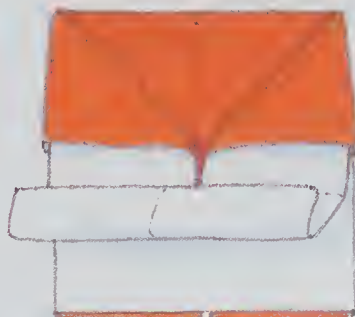
**3** Open out top leaf of each side and crease to form triangles at the top.



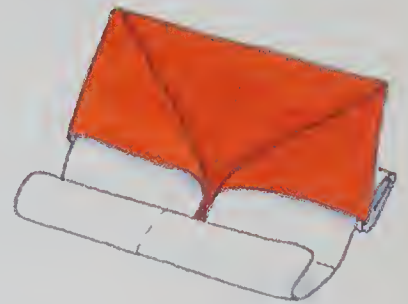
**4** Fold two ends around to the back.



**5** Fold the bottom half of the front upward three times to form a cuff.



**6** Turn hat over and fold the bottom half at the back up three times.



Pull hat open and make a dent in the top.





# Useful information

## Museums

American Craft Museum  
40 West 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Tel: 212-956-3535

Fax: 212-956-3699

*(American 20th-century crafts by artists working in paper, fiber, textiles, wood, and other media)*

Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design  
Smithsonian Institution  
2 East 91st Street  
New York, NY 10128  
Tel: 212-860-6868  
Fax: 212-860-6909

*(design and decorative arts of all periods and countries, wallpaper, prints, graphics, textiles, and other arts)*

Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking  
500 Tenth Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
Tel: 404-894-7840  
Fax: 404-894-4778

*(history of paper and paper technology; includes collection of watermarks, papers, tools, machines, and manuscripts)*

Museum of Oriental Cultures  
462 South Staples Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
Tel: 512-883-1303

*(decorative art of Japan, China, India, and Korea; includes oriental fan collection and painting)*

## Organizations

American Craft Council  
72 Spring Street  
New York, NY 10012  
Tel: 212-274-0630

Fax: 212-274-0650

*(also publishes American Craft Magazine)*

Friends of the Origami Center of America  
15 West 77th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
Tel: 212-769-5635  
Fax: 212-769-5668

## Books

*Asian Crafts*  
by Judith Hoffman Corwin  
(Franklin Watts, 1992)

*From Wood to Paper*  
by Ali Mitgutsch  
(Carolrhoda, 1986) grades ps-3

*Fun with Paper*  
by Heather Amery  
(Random, 1993)

*Holiday Paper Projects*  
by R. Richard Churchill  
(Sterling, 1993)

*How Is Paper Made?*  
by Isaac Asimov  
(Gareth Stevens, 1992)  
grades 1-8

*Making Chinese Paper Cuts*  
by Corinne Borja and Robert Borja  
(A. Whitman, 1980) grades 3-8

*Origami Safari*  
by Steve Biddle and Megumi Biddle  
(Morrow, 1994) grades 4+

*Paper*  
by Erica Burt  
(Rourke Corp., 1990)  
grades 2-6

*Paper*  
by Andrew Langley  
(Thomson Lrng, 1993)  
grades 3-5

*The Paper Book and Paper Maker*  
by Shar Levine  
(Hyperion Chil., 1993)  
grades k-5

*Paper Craft: Arts & Crafts*  
by Denny A. Robson  
(Franklin Watts, 1993)

*Papercrafts*  
by Judith H. Corwin  
(Franklin Watts, 1988)  
grades 2-4

*Papermaking*  
by Susie O'Reilly  
(Thomson Lrng, 1994)  
grades 4-6

*Papier Mache*  
by Barrie Caldecott  
(Franklin Watts, 1993)

*Papier Mache for Kids*  
by Sheila McGraw  
(Firefly Books, 1991)

*Play with Papier Mache*  
by Susan Moxley  
(Carolrhoda, 1994) grades 1+

*Super Origami: Book One*  
by James E. Trodglan Jr.  
(Origami International, 1991)



# Glossary

**Buddhist** A follower of the religion started in India by Gautama Buddha.

**confetti** Small pieces of colored paper that are scattered over the newly married couple at a wedding.

**cooperative** A group of people who work together, sharing materials and their workplace. They also share any profits from their work.

**endpaper** A special sheet of paper that is stuck into the beginning and end of a book.

**etiquette** The accepted way to behave toward other people.

**fiber** A thin strand or thread that is used to make up a material or fabric.

**hemp** A woody plant whose fibers are used to make rope.

**manuscript** A document that is written by hand. It also refers to an author's text for a new book, whether typed or handwritten.

**marbling** A design or form of decoration that is made to look like a piece of marble.

**mesh** The fine strands of a net or sieve. They are placed at right angles to each other, leaving open spaces in between.

**mulberry paper** Paper that is made from the leaves of the mulberry tree.

**No drama** A form of traditional Japanese theater.

**origami** The Japanese art of folding paper to make model shapes.

**papier-mâché** A method of making objects from glue and scraps of paper or paper pulp.

**papyrus** Paper that is made from the stems of the papyrus plant.

**pliable** Bendable or easily reshaped.

**profile** A side view of something, especially a person's face.

**pulp** A soft, shapeless mass of rags, wood, and other material. It is used to make paper.

**scroll** An ancient form of a book made from rolled paper.

**silhouette** A shadow or outline picture of a person or thing.

**watermark** An invisible mark in a sheet of paper. It helps to identify the papermaker.



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## Additional photographs:

page 6 (top left): John Freeman/New Holland Publishers Ltd; page 8 (top right): Carol Wills/Oxfam; page 14 (top left): Robert Harding Picture Library; page 24 (top right): Liz Clayton/Oxfam.





Discover other cultures

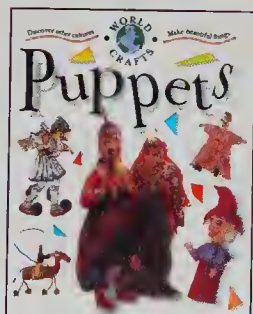


Make beautiful things

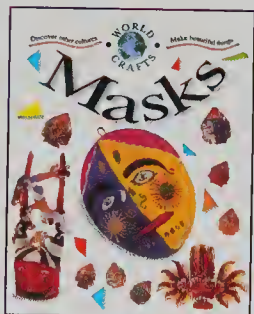


This exciting new series uses crafts to explore other countries and cultures. Information and maps accompany beautiful photographs of original artifacts. Clear, step-by-step artwork shows how to make similar items. Appealing design makes learning fun.

Titles in the series



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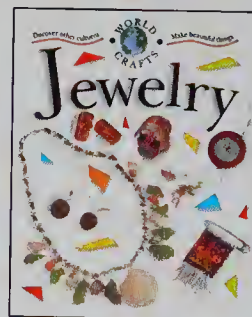
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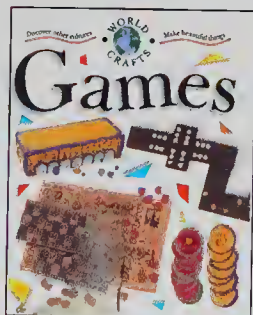
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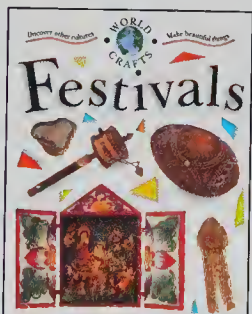
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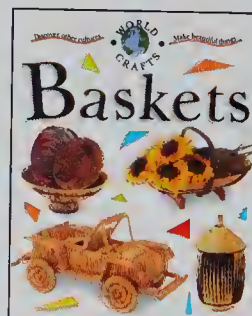
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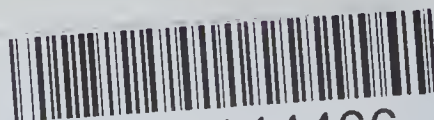


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